

FLORIDA RIGHTS RESTORATION COALITION • 2026

YOUR **VOTE.** YOUR VOICE.

JUSTICE-IMPACTED VOTER
GUIDE & HANDBOOK

A resource for returning citizens
navigating the path back to full
civic participation in the State of
Florida.

FLORIDARRC.COM



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

AM4 ELIGIBILITY & ADVISORY OPINION

In 2018, Florida voters passed Amendment 4 with over 64% support — automatically restoring voting rights to most returning citizens upon completion of their sentence, including probation and parole. This was a historic victory for democracy and human dignity.

However, in 2019, the Florida Legislature passed SB 7066, requiring that all fines, fees, costs, and restitution be paid in full before rights are restored — creating what many consider an unconstitutional "pay-to-vote" barrier.



★ ★ WHO IS ELIGIBLE UNDER AMENDMENT 4? ★ ★

You **MAY** be eligible to vote if you have completed **ALL** terms of your sentence — including any probation or parole — **AND** your conviction was **NOT** for murder or a felony sexual offense. Financial obligations (fines & fees) may also apply.

☒ **LIKELY ELIGIBLE IF:**

- Felony conviction (non-murder, non-sex offense)
- Completed all terms of sentence
- Probation & parole fully served
- Fines & fees paid or resolved
- Never previously had rights restored

☒ **NOT ELIGIBLE UNDER A4 IF:**

- Convicted of murder (any degree)
- Convicted of a felony sexual offense
- Currently serving a sentence
- On active probation or parole
- Outstanding LFOs with no payment plan

Advisory Opinion: FRRC strongly advises all returning citizens to verify their eligibility before registering or voting. Contact our Fines & Fees Assistance Program to get help resolving outstanding LFOs (Legal Financial Obligations). You can also request a Voting Rights Status inquiry directly through the Florida Division of Elections or consult with FRRC's legal team at no cost.

"IF YOU'RE UNSURE WHETHER YOUR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN RESTORED, FRRC CAN HELP YOU FIND OUT — **FOR FREE.**"



FRRC FINES & FEES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The program assists eligible returning citizens by:

- Reviewing criminal cases and court records
- Determining voting rights eligibility
- Connecting applicants with volunteer attorneys
- Assisting with motions to modify or convert qualifying legal financial obligations
- Supporting community service conversion efforts
- Providing guidance throughout the rights restoration process

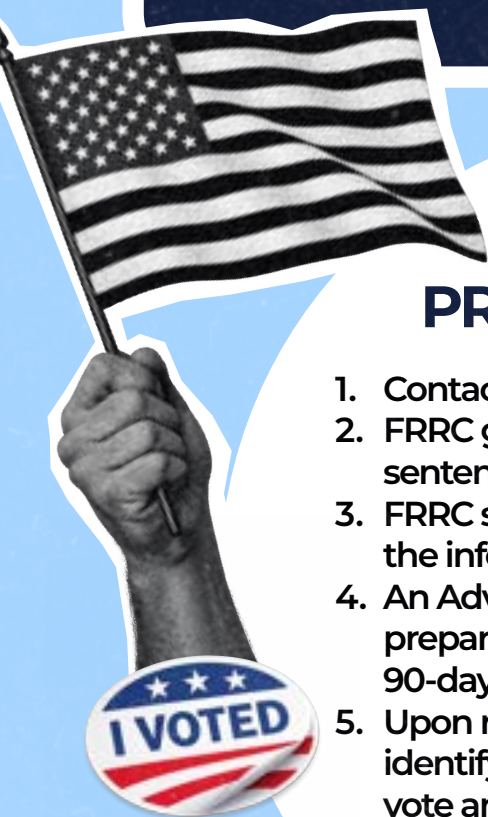


WHAT IS AN ADVISORY OPINION?

Many returning citizens are unsure whether they have completed all terms of their sentence or whether outstanding fines, fees, costs, or restitution affect their voting rights.

FRRC's Advisory Opinion Program helps individuals better understand their eligibility by conducting a review of available court records and sentencing information.

An Advisory Opinion is a written legal assessment based on available information and is intended to help individuals make informed decisions regarding their voting rights status.



★ HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

1. Contact FRRC for assistance.
2. FRRC gathers available court and sentencing records.
3. FRRC staff and trained volunteers review the information.
4. An Advisory Opinion application is prepared and sent to the State with a 90-day turnaround period.
5. Upon return of the report, the State will identify if a returning citizen is eligible to vote and if not, what amounts are owed.

★ WHY ADVISORY OPINIONS MATTER

Many returning citizens have convictions from multiple counties, older cases, or incomplete records that can make eligibility difficult to determine.

An Advisory Opinion can help:

- ✓ Clarify voting rights status
- ✓ Identify unresolved legal financial obligations
- ✓ Determine whether additional court research is needed
- ✓ Provide greater confidence before registering or voting

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



If you are unsure whether all terms of your sentence have been completed, including any financial obligations, seek assistance before registering to vote. FRRRC can help you review available records and determine next steps.



FRRRC is here to help you navigate your rights restoration journey and remove barriers to voting – so you can make your voice count.





ABOUT FRRC

OUR MISSION & COMMITMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

"The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition is dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with conviction histories by transforming the narrative and building political power for returning citizens and their families across Florida."



The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC) is a statewide, membership-based organization led by and for returning citizens. We believe that everyone deserves a second chance — and that democracy is strongest when every voice is heard, including those who have been directly impacted by the criminal legal system.

FRRC was founded on the belief that people with conviction histories are experts on the challenges they face, and therefore must be at the center of the solutions. Our work is driven by those who have lived the experience.

OUR CORE PROGRAMS

- Fines & Fees Assistance Program
- Voter Registration & GOTV
- OurVoice Civic Engagement
- Election Protection
- Policy & Legislative Advocacy
- Canvassing & Phone Banking
- Reentry Support & Navigation

OUR VALUES

- Community-Led Leadership
- Dignity & Respect for All
- Transparency & Accountability
- Power-Building from Within
- Nonpartisan Civic Engagement
- Justice Over Politics
- Strength Through Unity

**"WE ARE NOT DEFINED BY OUR WORST MOMENTS.
WE ARE DEFINED BY WHAT WE DO NEXT."**

Since the passage of Amendment 4, FRRC has registered tens of thousands of returning citizens across Florida, built one of the largest civic engagement programs for justice-impacted people in the country, and continues to fight every day for full, unconditional restoration of rights.

THE SCOPE OF DISENFRANCHISEMENT RETURNING CITIZEN DATA IN FLORIDA



1.4M+

Floridians affected by
felony disenfranchisement
before Amendment 4



64%

Florida voters who
approved Amendment 4 in
2018



900K+

Estimated Floridians still
unable to vote due to LFO
barriers (post-SB 7066)



~\$1B

Estimated total
outstanding fines & fees
owed by returning citizens
in FL



1 IN 5

Black Floridians of voting
age impacted by felony
disenfranchisement



~95%

Returning citizens who
cannot afford to pay their
LFOs in full

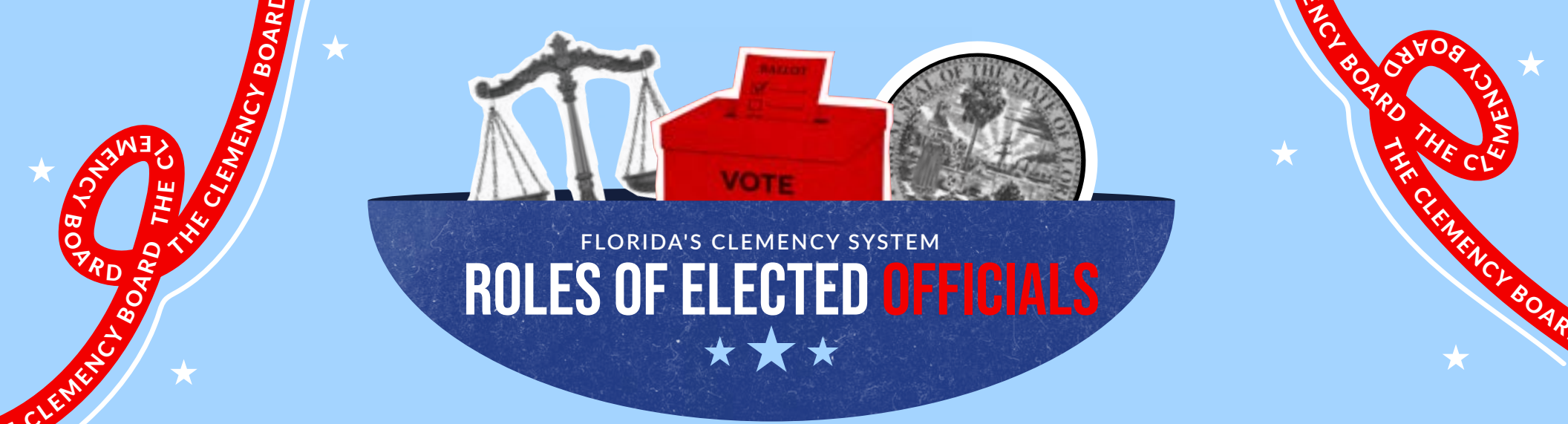
Florida has historically been the state with the highest number of disenfranchised citizens in the nation. Before Amendment 4, Florida was one of only four states that permanently stripped voting rights from people with felony convictions.

THE RACIAL DISPARITY

Black Floridians make up approximately 17% of the state's general population but represent an estimated 45% of the state's disenfranchised returning citizen population. The LFO (Legal Financial Obligations) requirement under SB 7066 has a disproportionate impact on communities of color and those living in poverty.

“VOTING IS NOT A PRIVILEGE
TO BE PURCHASED — IT IS A
RIGHT THAT MUST BE
RESTORED.”

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A graphic featuring a blue bowl-like shape containing icons of scales of justice, a red ballot box with 'VOTE' on it, and the Great Seal of the State of Florida. Above the bowl, a red ribbon loops around with the text 'THE CLEMENCY BOARD' repeated. The background is light blue with white stars.

FLORIDA'S CLEMENCY SYSTEM ROLES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

For returning citizens convicted of murder or felony sexual offenses — who are not covered by Amendment 4 — voting rights restoration must go through Florida's Board of Executive Clemency. This board has sole discretion over whether to restore civil rights, including the right to vote.

CHAIR · GOVERNOR **Governor of Florida**

The Governor serves as Chair of the Board of Executive Clemency and has significant influence over the clemency process — including setting rules, agenda, and casting a vote. The Governor's support or opposition largely determines the pace and openness of clemency grants.

BOARD MEMBER **Attorney General**

The Attorney General serves on the Board and votes on all clemency matters. They represent the state's legal position and only weigh in on how the law intersects with clemency eligibility and victim's rights considerations.

BOARD MEMBER **Chief Financial Officer**

The CFO also serves on the Board of Executive Clemency and votes on individual clemency cases. Their role reflects the state's broader interest in local accountability and public welfare in the reintegration of returning citizens.

BOARD MEMBER **Commissioner of Agriculture**

The Commissioner of Agriculture rounds out the four-member Board and votes on clemency applications. Together, all four members must generally agree — or a supermajority must be reached — for clemency to be granted in many cases.

HOW CLEMENCY WORKS

The Clemency Board meets periodically. Applicants must apply, wait — sometimes for years — and then appear before the Board. The Board has broad discretion to grant or deny restoration of civil rights with or without a hearing. FRRC seeks to educate returning citizens about all four clemency board seats during every election cycle.

THE CASE FOR CHANGE

WHY CLEMENCY NEEDS REFORM

Florida's clemency system is widely recognized as one of the most dysfunctional and inequitable in the United States. Even after the passage of Amendment 4, tens of thousands of Floridians remain permanently locked out of the democratic process — not because of ongoing danger to society, but because of a broken system.



1

DECADES-LONG BACKLOGS

Thousands of clemency applications sit in queue for 5, 10, even 20+ years with no hearing scheduled. The system lacks the staffing, funding, and urgency to process cases in a timely and just manner.

2

NO GUARANTEED RIGHT TO A HEARING

Under current rules, the Board can — and often does — deny clemency without ever meeting the applicant. There is no constitutional guarantee of a hearing, leaving applicants with no opportunity to advocate for themselves.

3

POLITICAL, NOT MERIT-BASED DECISIONS

Clemency decisions are driven by the political climate of whoever sits on the Board — not by evidence of rehabilitation, time served, community reintegration, or public safety data. When the Governor changes, so does the entire clemency philosophy.

4

RACIAL DISPARITIES IN OUTCOMES

Black and brown applicants face significantly lower grant rates in clemency proceedings, continuing a systemic pattern of racial inequity that runs from arrest, through sentencing, and into the restoration process itself.

5

LFO BARRIERS UNDERMINE AMENDMENT 4

The pay-to-vote requirement created by SB 7066 effectively means that those with financial hardship — typically the most marginalized — cannot exercise rights that voters overwhelmingly chose to restore in 2018.

**"REAL REHABILITATION AND REDEMPTION CANNOT BE
GATED BY POLITICAL WILL OR THE ABILITY TO PAY."**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
**2026 FLORIDA
VOTING DATES**

The 2026 election cycle is critical for returning citizens and the entire FRRC community. Florida will hold a Primary Election and a General Election — both of which include key races for the Clemency Board (Governor, AG, CFO, and Commissioner). Know these dates. Plan ahead. Your vote matters.

**AUG
8**

EARLY VOTING BEGINS — PRIMARY

Early voting runs approximately August 8 – 15. Check your county supervisor of elections for specific dates, hours, and locations.

**AUG
15**

EARLY VOTING ENDS — PRIMARY

Last day to vote early for the Primary Election. Check your county supervisor of elections for specific dates, hours, and locations.

**AUG
18**

FLORIDA PRIMARY ELECTION DAY ★

Primary Election Day — this is where candidates for each party are selected. Polls open 7 AM – 7 PM. Bring your ID. Locate your polling place at dos.fl.gov.

**OCT
5**

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE — GENERAL

Last day to register or update your registration for the General Election. Check your status now at dos.fl.gov.

**OCT
24**

EARLY VOTING BEGINS — GENERAL ELECTION

Early voting runs approximately October 24 – 31. Check your county supervisor of elections for specific dates, hours, and locations.

**NOV
3**

GENERAL ELECTION DAY 2026 ★

THE day. Polls open 7 AM – 7 PM statewide. If you are in line when polls close, you have the right to vote. Bring photo ID. This election shapes the Clemency Board for years to come.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Dates listed are projected based on Florida's standard election calendar. Always verify exact dates with the Florida Division of Elections (dos.fl.gov) or your county Supervisor of Elections. FRRC will send reminders — but don't rely solely on us. Put these dates in your phone TODAY.



MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE YOUR PERSONAL VOTING PLAN

Research shows that people who make a specific plan to vote — including when, where, and how — are significantly more likely to actually cast their ballot. Use this checklist to build your plan right now.



- ☐ **STEP 1 — CONFIRM YOUR ELIGIBILITY**
Contact FRRC or visit www.floridarrc.com to verify your voting rights have been restored. Check for any outstanding fines or fees that may affect your status. *Do this FIRST.*
- ☐ **STEP 2 — REGISTER TO VOTE**
Register online at RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov, in person at your Supervisor of Elections office, or with an FRRC volunteer. Confirm your registration is active before each election.
- ☐ **STEP 3 — KNOW YOUR POLLING LOCATION**
Find your assigned polling place at dos.myflorida.com or by calling your county Supervisor of Elections. Know the address and hours before Election Day.
- ☐ **STEP 4 — GET YOUR ID READY**
Florida requires photo ID at the polls. Accepted IDs include FL Driver's License, FL ID Card, US Passport, Military ID, Student ID (with signature), and others. Make sure yours isn't expired.
- ☐ **STEP 5 — RESEARCH THE CANDIDATES & ISSUES**
FRRC will issue candidate guides and scorecards. Focus especially on the four Clemency Board seats: Governor, Attorney General, CFO, and Commissioner of Agriculture.
- ☐ **STEP 6 — MAKE A TRANSPORTATION PLAN**
Know how you're getting to the polls. FRRC partners with local organizations to provide rides. Contact us if you need help getting to your polling location — no one should miss their vote over a ride.
- ☐ **STEP 7 — BRING A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER**
Voting is contagious. Bring someone with you — a neighbor, a family member, someone who's been hesitant. Your civic energy is the most powerful GOTV tool we have.
- ☐ **STEP 8 — REPORT PROBLEMS IMMEDIATELY**
If you are turned away, given a provisional ballot without explanation, or experience any issues at the polls — call FRRC's Election Protection Hotline immediately. Know your rights: you have the right to vote. (866-Our-Vote)

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

BECOME AN **FRRRC** MEMBER

FRRRC is more than an organization — it's a movement powered by people who have lived through the system and come out determined to change it. Membership means you are part of the largest network of returning citizens fighting for rights, dignity, and power in Florida.

WHY JOIN?

As an FRRRC member, you are not just a supporter — you are a decision-maker, a community organizer, and a voice in the movement. Your lived experience is your credential. Your membership drives our collective power.

1.

HAVE A VOICE

in FRRRC's direction, priorities, and campaigns — members shape the movement.

2.

ACCESS RESOURCES

including fines & fees assistance, voter registration support, and legal referrals.

3.

RECEIVE TRAINING

in civic engagement, canvassing, phone banking, and community organizing through OurVoice.

4.

BUILD YOUR NETWORK

with thousands of returning citizens and allies across every county in Florida.

5.

GET ELECTION PROTECTION

support and live guidance from FRRRC during every election cycle.

6.

SHAPE POLICY

— FRRRC members testify, lobby, and advocate directly to Florida's elected officials.

“WHEN RETURNING CITIZENS VOTE, FLORIDA CHANGES. WHEN WE ORGANIZE, FLORIDA TRANSFORMS.”

JOIN FRRRC TODAY



WWW.FLORIDARRC.COM



877-698-6830



INFO@FLORIDARRC.ORG

Membership is open to all returning citizens, family members, and allies.
Join free or make a contribution to power our work.